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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor
Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports

March 86-3

SUMMARY: Total unemployment remained nearly unchanged from February dropping to 20,660 from 20,690. The rate of unemployment was unchanged remaining at 3.8 percent for the third consecutive month. A year ago there were 21,460 unemployed with a rate of 4.2 percent. Nationally the rates were 7.5 percent in March, 7.8 percent in February and 7.5 percent a year ago. New Hampshire, based on the latest data available by state (February 1986), has had the lowest unemployment rate for seven consecutive months.

Five labor market areas experienced increased unemployment in March while five areas had less. The Claremont area with 2.3 percent unemployed had the lowest rate and the Salem area with 6.6 percent had the highest rate. Year ago comparisons show that seven areas had higher unemployment this year and five areas had lower unemployment. The Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH - Maine MSA had the largest unemployment decrease with 1,450 fewer unemployed this year than last.

The largest unemployment decreases from February occurred in the Nashua and Laconia areas as unemployment decreased by 300 and 170 respectively. The largest unemployment increases occurred in the Keene area with 140 more unemployed and in the Berlin and Littleton areas each with 110 more unemployed. Some seasonal unemployment occurred as the mud season in the northern part of the state slowed logging operations. The electrical products industry experienced scattered layoffs especially in the Manchester and Nashua areas. Construction layoffs occurred in various parts of the state and in particular at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Project as some project phases are reaching completion.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 2,100 from February as manufacturing was down by 450, but nonmanufacturing was up by 2,550. Compared to a year ago, nonagricultural wage and salary employment has increased by 26,150 workers as manufacturing decreased by 2,350 while nonmanufacturing increased by 28,500. Electrical products lost 1,850 jobs during the year, however, construction added 7,450, trade 7,650, and services 8,450.

MANCHESTER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS: Total unemployment increased by only 80 from February as the rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent. A year ago the rate was 3.3 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 200 from February and by 3,250 from a year ago. While manufacturing is down 550, nonmanufacturing is up 3,800. Services has increased by 700 over the year, while construction and trade are each up 1,100.

NASHUA ECONOMIC CONDITIONS: Total unemployment decreased by 300 from February and the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. A year ago the rate was 3.1 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 150 workers from February as manufacturing was down 50 and nonmanufacturing was up 200. Compared to the year ago level, nonagricultural employment has increased by 1,100 as manufacturing is down 1,200 while nonmanufacturing is up 2,300. In manufacturing, machinery and electrical products decreased by 900 from a year ago. In nonmanufacturing, services is up 800 and construction 400.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA ***					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Month	Year	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Month	Year	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	548,120	541,350	516,010	6,770	32,110	82,500	81,570	77,730	930	4,770	89,410	88,900	87,060	510	2,350
2. Unemployment	20,660	20,690	21,460	- 30	- 800	3,060	2,980	2,550	80	510	3,220	3,520	2,670	- 300	550
Percent of labor force	3.8	3.8	4.2	xxx	xxx	3.7	3.7	3.3	xxx	xxx	3.6	4.0	3.1	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	527,460	520,660	494,550	6,800	32,910	79,440	78,590	75,180	850	4,260	86,190	85,380	84,390	810	1,800
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	473,850	471,750	447,700	2,100	26,150	80,400	80,200	77,150	200	3,250	83,400	83,250	82,300	150	1,100
Manufacturing	121,650	122,100	124,000	- 450	-2,350	14,750	14,850	15,300	- 100	- 550	36,700	36,750	37,900	- 50	-1,200
Durable goods	83,600	83,550	85,400	50	-1,800	9,050	9,100	9,100	- 50	- 50	30,500	30,450	31,500	50	-1,000
Lumber & wood prods.	5,700	5,800	5,600	- 100	100										
Furniture & fixtures	1,750	1,800	1,600	- 50	150										
Stone & clay prods.	3,000	2,950	2,900	50	100										
Primary metal prods.	4,250	4,200	4,400	50	- 150										
Fabricated metal prods.	7,050	7,100	7,400	- 50	- 350										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	25,850	25,750	26,200	100	- 350	5,450	5,500	5,800	- 50	- 350	23,100	23,000	24,000	100	- 900
Electrical prods.	24,600	24,600	26,450	0	-1,850										
Miscellaneous prods.	2,200	2,200	2,150	0	50										
Other durables	9,200	9,150	8,700	50	500	3,600	3,600	3,300	0	300	7,400	7,450	7,500	- 50	- 100
Nondurable goods	38,050	38,550	38,600	- 500	- 550	5,700	5,750	6,200	- 50	- 500	6,200	6,300	6,400	- 100	- 200
Food & kindred prods.	3,200	3,300	3,000	- 100	200										
Textile mill prods.	3,750	3,650	3,800	100	- 50	1,500	1,550	1,750	- 50	- 250					
Apparel	2,550	2,600	2,550	- 50	0										
Paper & allied prods.	5,600	5,600	5,650	0	0										
Print., pub. & allied	7,100	7,150	7,250	- 50	- 150										
Leather & lea. prods.	5,350	5,550	5,400	- 200	- 50										
Other nondurables	10,500	10,700	10,950	- 200	- 450	4,200	4,200	4,450	0	- 250					
Nonmanufacturing	352,200	349,650	323,700	2,550	28,500	65,650	65,350	61,850	300	3,800	46,700	46,500	44,400	200	2,300
Construction (inc. min.)	32,600	32,700	25,150	- 100	7,450	5,050	5,100	3,950	- 50	1,100	3,700	3,700	3,300	0	400
Trans., comm. & util.	15,400	15,450	15,250	- 50	150	4,900	4,900	4,650	0	250	2,200	2,200	2,000	0	200
Trade	112,600	111,350	104,950	1,250	7,650	21,350	21,300	20,250	50	1,100	16,950	17,000	16,800	- 50	150
Fin., ins. & real estate	26,500	26,150	24,300	350	2,200	7,200	7,200	6,900	0	300	2,750	2,700	2,550	50	200
Service industry & other	103,050	102,350	94,600	700	8,450	19,350	19,150	18,650	200	700	14,950	14,800	14,150	150	800
Government	62,050	61,650	59,450	400	2,600	7,800	7,700	7,450	100	350	6,150	6,100	5,600	50	550
Federal	8,100	8,050	7,450	50	650	2,350	2,350	2,200	0	150	750	750	750	0	0
State	16,950	16,850	16,700	100	250	850	850	800	0	50	250	- 250	200	0	50
Local	37,000	36,750	35,300	250	1,700	4,600	4,500	4,450	100	150	5,150	5,100	4,650	50	500

* By place of residence

** By place of establishment
Benchmark March 1985

*** Not Validated By The Bureau Of Labor Statistics

Labor Disputes:

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

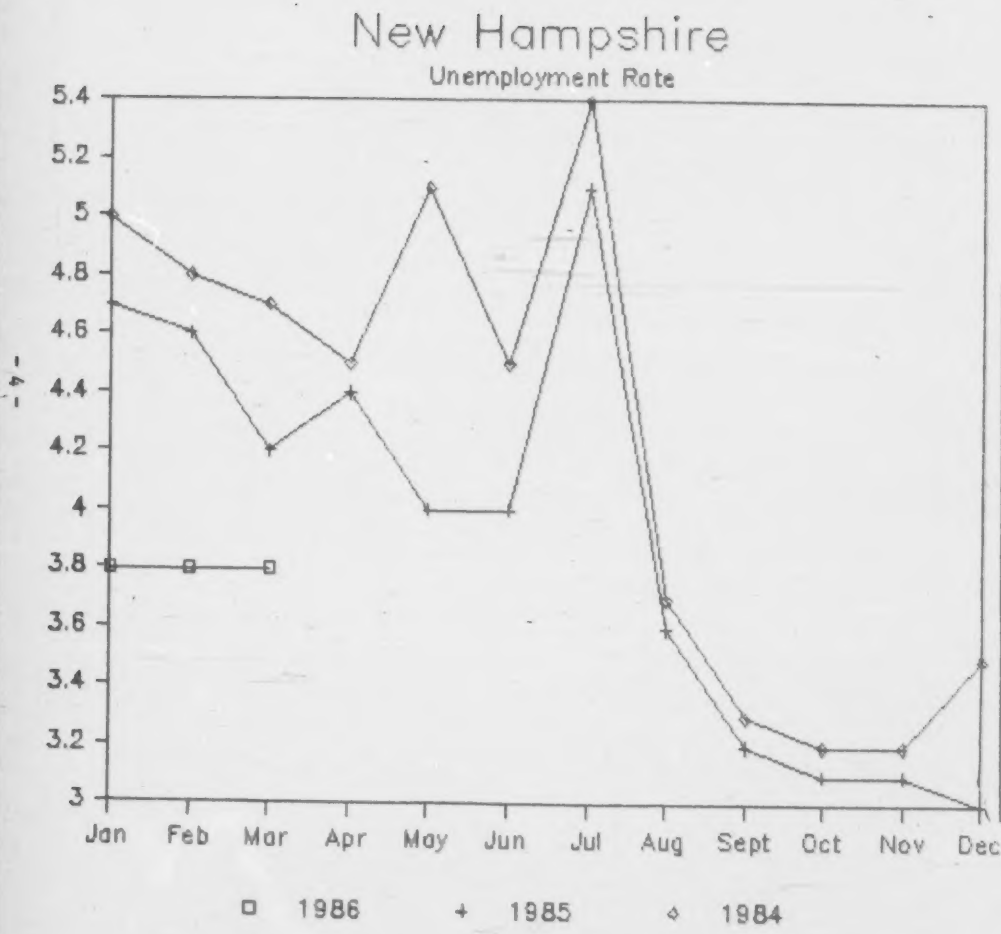
Area	Unemployment*								Civilian Labor Force				
	March 1986		February 1986		March 1985		Numerical Change From Previous		March 1986	February 1986	March 1985	Numerical Change From Previous	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year				Month	Year
UNITED STATES**	8,667	7.5	9,041	7.8	8,625	7.5	-374	42	116,309	115,725	114,394	584	1,915
NEW HAMPSHIRE	20,660	3.8	20,690	3.8	21,460	4.2	-30	-800	548,120	541,350	516,010	6,770	32,110
BERLIN LMA	1,330	5.3	1,220	4.9	1,120	4.9	110	210	25,260	24,950	23,090	310	2,170
CLAREMONT LMA	850	2.3	870	2.4	1,040	3.0	-20	-190	37,360	37,020	34,720	340	2,640
CONCORD LMA	1,350	2.7	1,350	2.7	1,490	3.2	0	-140	49,570	49,110	46,020	460	3,550
KEENE LMA	1,200	3.0	1,060	2.7	1,140	3.1	140	60	40,080	39,420	37,120	660	2,960
LACONIA LMA	1,420	3.0	1,590	3.4	1,940	4.4	-170	-520	47,320	46,790	44,540	530	2,780
LITTLETON LMA	910	5.3	800	4.7	820	5.2	110	90	17,220	17,020	15,710	200	1,510
MANCHESTER MSA	3,060	3.7	2,980	3.7	2,550	3.3	80	510	82,310	81,570	77,730	940	4,780
NASHUA PMSA	3,220	3.6	3,520	4.0	2,670	3.1	-300	250	89,410	88,900	87,060	510	2,350
N.H. PORTION LAWRENCE-HAVERHILL MA. PMSA***	2,920	6.6	2,920	6.7	2,560	6.3	0	360	44,290	43,760	40,750	530	3,540
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H.-ME.	3,950	3.3	4,070	3.4	5,400	4.7	-120	-1,450	120,580	118,760	114,570	1,820	7,830
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREA****	750	4.4	720	4.4	960	6.1	30	-210	16,960	16,190	15,810	770	1,150
N.H. PORTION LOWELL MA. PMSA	260	5.5	270	5.8	200	4.4	-10	60	4,770	4,680	4,540	90	230
County													
BELKNAP	750	3.1	800	3.3	1,190	5.2	-50	-440	24,300	24,000	23,040	300	1,260
CARROLL	430	2.6	460	2.8	580	3.8	-30	-150	16,570	16,380	15,460	190	1,110
CHESHIRE	1,090	3.0	970	2.7	1,060	3.2	120	30	35,870	35,280	33,240	590	2,630
COOS	1,450	6.8	1,280	6.1	1,090	5.7	170	360	21,250	20,930	19,250	320	2,000
GRAFTON	1,170	3.1	1,220	3.3	1,260	3.7	-50	-90	37,290	36,990	34,520	300	2,700
HILLSBOROUGH	6,300	3.7	6,570	3.9	5,380	3.3	-270	920	171,900	170,240	164,340	1,660	7,560
MERRIMACK	1,770	3.0	1,680	2.9	1,780	3.3	90	-10	58,660	57,970	54,510	690	4,150
ROCKINGHAM	5,180	4.7	5,270	4.9	5,030	4.9	-90	150	109,750	108,160	102,460	1,590	7,290
STRAFFORD	2,040	3.8	1,940	3.7	3,470	6.8	100	-1,430	53,180	52,220	51,160	960	2,020
SULLIVAN	480	2.5	500	2.6	620	3.4	-20	-140	19,350	19,180	18,030	170	1,320

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA — includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA — is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1986	1985	1984	1983
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - March	321.4			
Percent change from year ago	1.9			
Year average		318.5	307.6	297.4
Percent increase each year		3.5	3.4	3.0
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - March	326.0			
Percent change from year ago	2.3			
Year average		322.2	311.1	298.4
Percent increase each year		3.6	4.3	3.2

Population by Sex and Minority Status - New Hampshire Counties
and Metropolitan Statistical Areas

1985

Area	Total	Total Minority	Total Non-white	Black	American Indian	Japanese & Chinese	All Other	Hispanic
New Hampshire	1,014,330	15,946	10,135	4,665	1,461	3,667	342	5,811
Male	494,170	8,171	5,076	2,517	846	1,541	172	3,095
Female	520,160	7,775	5,059	2,148	615	2,126	170	2,716
Belknap	47,180	384	228	50	102	74	2	156
Male	23,120	199	121	30	59	30	2	78
Female	24,060	185	107	20	43	44	0	78
Carroll	31,110	202	89	14	40	29	6	113
Male	15,120	93	32	7	20	2	3	61
Female	15,990	109	57	7	20	27	3	52
Cheshire	66,630	508	306	93	98	93	22	202
Male	32,010	274	151	51	72	19	9	123
Female	34,620	234	155	42	26	74	13	79
Coos	35,030	157	92	5	49	29	9	65
Male	16,940	74	50	3	27	15	5	24
Female	18,090	83	42	2	22	14	4	41
Grafton	70,800	1,309	975	451	149	346	29	334
Male	35,120	762	567	277	91	193	6	195
Female	35,680	547	408	174	58	153	23	139
Hillsborough	306,510	5,992	3,304	1,671	316	1,213	104	2,688
Male	148,280	3,053	1,655	889	126	585	55	1,398
Female	158,230	2,939	1,649	782	190	628	49	1,290
Merrimack	106,530	1,283	807	332	176	238	61	476
Male	51,350	598	369	173	88	78	30	229
Female	55,180	685	438	159	88	160	31	247
Rockingham	215,870	4,441	3,273	1,725	350	1,174	24	1,168
Male	107,110	2,226	1,596	894	255	434	13	630
Female	108,760	2,215	1,677	831	95	740	11	538
Strafford	95,700	1,381	911	292	123	428	68	470
Male	46,180	734	460	174	65	185	36	274
Female	49,520	647	451	118	58	243	32	196
Sullivan	38,970	289	150	32	58	43	17	139
Male	18,940	158	75	19	43	0	13	83
Female	20,030	131	75	13	15	43	4	56

SOURCE: New Hampshire Affirmative Action 1985 - Copies of this report are available upon request.

Weekly Claims Filed During March 1986
Classified by Local Office

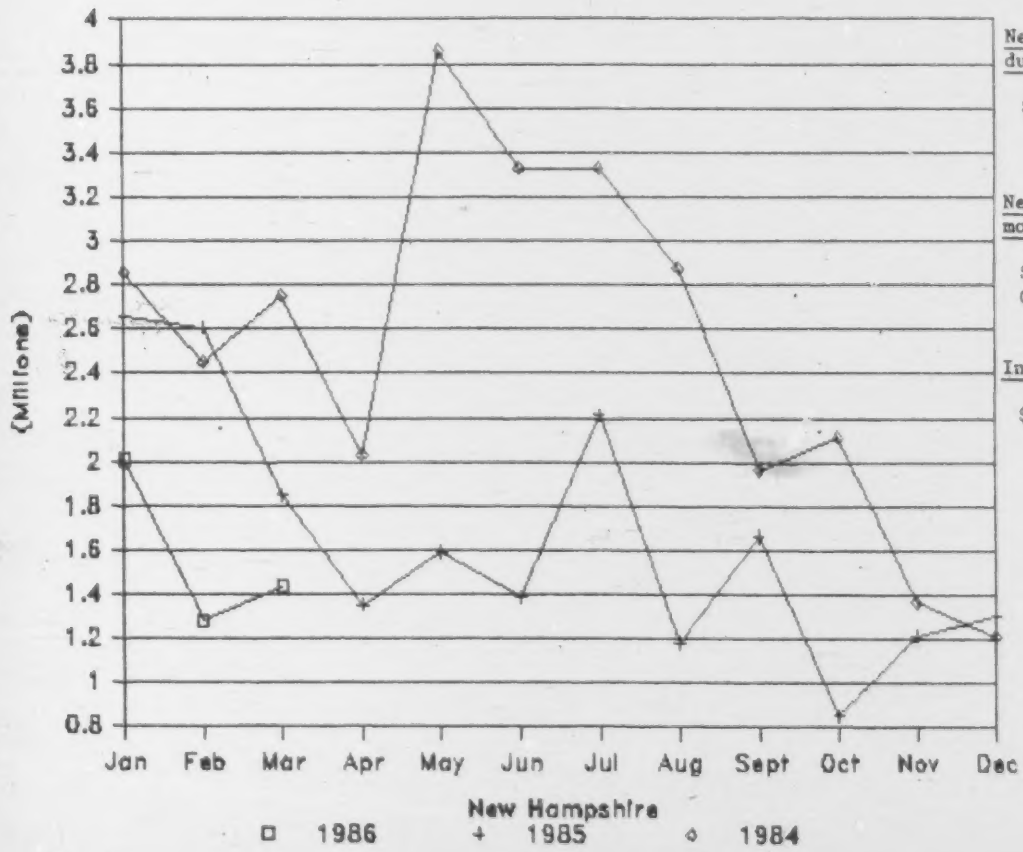
Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	3,533	14,709	6	26	11	14	23	75	21	54
Berlin	199	1,147	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	8
Claremont	147	378	0	0	4	4	0	1	0	2
Concord	215	1,010	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Conway	73	225	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Dover	524	1,776	3	6	2	1	4	21	6	18
Keene	197	781	0	1	2	6	1	7	0	3
Laconia	205	952	1	2	0	0	1	8	1	0
Lebanon	54	258	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	1
Littleton	203	805	0	0	1	2	0	6	0	0
Manchester	727	2,925	0	2	0	0	4	6	2	5
Nashua	278	1,434	0	2	0	0	1	8	3	6
Portsmouth	432	1,352	0	2	0	0	8	9	5	3
Salem	115	403	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
Liable Interstate	164	1,263	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	6

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $111.24

Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$120,545,936.33

Unemployment Benefits Paid Monthly



Net contributions received during month:

$ 116,982.81

Net benefits paid during month:

$ 1,436,671.27
Corrected data for Feb. 1,284,075.74

Interest Received:

$ 0

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985
All manufacturing	$357.82	$356.34	$336.18	40.8	41.1	40.7	$8.77	$8.67	$8.26
Durable goods	369.90	368.46	348.50	41.1	41.4	41.0	9.00	8.90	8.50
Lumber & wood prods.	256.32	256.51	256.63	38.2	38.4	39.3	6.71	6.68	6.53
Furniture & fixtures	276.19	274.82	270.86	39.4	39.6	39.6	7.01	6.94	6.84
Stone & clay prods.	337.39	350.70	321.59	40.6	41.7	40.3	8.31	8.41	7.98
Primary metal prods.	400.01	395.43	367.04	42.6	41.8	41.9	9.39	9.46	8.76
Fab. metal prods.	334.54	337.33	313.18	38.9	39.5	40.1	8.60	8.54	7.81
Mach. (exc. elec.)	413.54	407.59	385.88	43.9	44.4	43.8	9.42	9.18	8.81
Electrical prods.	393.41	388.14	360.77	40.6	40.6	39.3	9.69	9.56	9.18
Miscellaneous prods.	251.59	273.74	277.13	36.2	38.5	41.8	6.95	7.11	6.63
Other durables	375.50	380.30	362.75	41.4	41.7	41.6	9.07	9.12	8.72
Nondurable goods	332.03	333.33	310.80	40.1	40.6	40.0	8.28	8.21	7.77
Food & kindred prods.	389.60	365.93	373.92	40.0	38.6	41.0	9.74	9.48	9.12
Textile mill prods.	304.83	308.06	275.49	41.7	42.2	40.1	7.31	7.30	6.87
Apparel	220.75	229.71	210.92	37.1	39.2	37.2	5.95	5.86	5.67
Paper & allied prods.	460.20	459.36	425.49	47.2	47.8	45.9	9.75	9.61	9.27
Print., pub. & allied	350.68	366.11	313.08	38.2	40.1	38.7	9.18	9.13	8.09
Leather & lea. prods.	187.58	188.48	189.04	33.2	33.9	34.0	5.65	5.56	5.56
Footwear	169.92	175.10	175.43	32.0	33.1	33.1	5.31	5.29	5.30
Other nondurables	367.00	366.96	340.31	41.8	41.7	41.4	8.78	8.80	8.22

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 55%

Total Production Workers: 84,100

Firms Reporting: 367

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985
All manufacturing	$351.88	$352.19	$321.60	40.4	41.0	40.1	$8.71	$8.59	$8.02
Durable goods	359.08	359.68	346.58	39.2	39.7	40.3	9.16	9.06	8.60
Mach. & elec. prods.	367.72	361.67	352.10	40.1	40.5	40.8	9.17	8.93	8.63
Other durables	347.32	355.74	338.52	38.0	38.5	39.5	9.14	9.24	8.57
Nondurable goods	340.85	341.20	286.56	42.5	43.3	39.8	8.02	7.88	7.20
Textiles & apparel	303.16	301.18	271.49	42.4	42.6	40.4	7.15	7.07	6.72
Other nondurables	355.73	356.27	291.85	42.5	43.5	39.6	8.37	8.19	7.37

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 61%

Total Production Workers: 10,800

Firms Reporting: 45

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1986	May. 1985
All manufacturing	$440.96	$418.14	$398.11	41.6	41.4	41.0	10.60	10.10	$9.71
Durable goods	450.60	424.74	404.74	41.8	41.6	41.3	10.78	10.21	9.80
Mach. & elec. prods.	499.80	461.47	431.83	42.5	41.8	40.7	11.76	11.04	10.61
Other durables	336.04	342.78	339.34	40.1	41.2	42.9	8.38	8.32	7.91
Nondurable goods	401.13	392.04	369.21	40.6	40.5	39.7	9.88	9.68	9.30

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 58%

Total Production Workers: 20,300

Firms Reporting: 72

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending March 1986

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	12,071	5,308	2,334	1,169	1,048	484
Prof., Tech. (00-16)						
Managerial (18,19)	1,658	572	229	88	202	55
Clerical (20-24)	2,171	1,779	425	337	219	169
Sales (25-29)	581	275	152	66	42	24
Services (3)	1,876	1,107	376	217	98	54
Farm (4)	150	25	12	1	13	2
Processing (5)	212	50	39	9	41	5
Machine Trade (6)	1,049	346	214	105	96	29
Benchwork (7)	1,189	789	403	257	140	93
Structural (8)	1,927	109	270	30	65	4
Miscellaneous (9)	1,215	233	207	54	125	43
Unclassified	43	23	7	5	7	6

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	March 1986	February 1986	July 1, 1985 To March 31, 1986
Total applicants for employment	2,681	1,109	15,408
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,114	1,657	21,704
Job openings unfilled end of month	1,668	1,544	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	956	695	11,098